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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaberty, Commissioner

FL 256

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

SEPTEMBER, 1964

Record 184,900 Workers On August Payrolls

Jobs Hit All Time High—Another employment record was set during August as a continued upsurge in Montana employment levels produced a record 184,900 wage earners in industry and commerce as of the August 15th estimate. It was the second successive record, following the 184,300 revised employment figure for July. The August employment total this year was a gain of 2,700 workers over the August, 1963 level, and 600 higher than the July 1964, employment total. Every year since 1950 non-farm employment in Montana has shown a steady increase over the preceding year with the exception of 1957 and 1958 when a nationwide recession was in effect. Industrial employment in Montana increased by 25,500 wage earners from 1950 to 1963, a gain of 17.1 per cent.

Hiring Active In All—Widespread hiring by virtually every industry segment highlighted the August labor market picture in Montana. At the end of the month, the statewide work applicant count dropped by 2,500 from the July figure. Employment advances over July occurred in four major industry groups, employment levels in three others remained unchanged, with a slight decline in one other.

Construction Keeps Pace—Construction contractors' payrolls were 200 heavier in August than in July for a total of 15,400. A few highway and building projects were temporarily interrupted during the month by bad weather. Some building projects were completed during the month but new

starts and payroll expansions at others absorbed the idled workers. Shortages of experienced building craftsmen developed in a few areas as the pace of construction quickened.

Main Street In High Gear—Trade establishments show employment increases of 200 over both the preceding month and over August 1963. Back-to-school buying coupled with unusually good tourist traffic kept main street trade and service activities in high gear. The opening of a new shopping center at Butte required 100 workers. Opening of new trade firms at Glendive, Billings, and Hamilton also added to the employment picture.

Other Trends—Other gains over July were in the service industries, up 100, and in government, up 300. August employment totals in mining, transportation, communications and utilities, and in finance, insurance and real estate firms remained the same as July totals. The only decline from July occurred in the manufacturing group where lumbering payrolls dropped by 200. The temporary closure of a few mills for vacation periods accounted for this deficit.

Metal Mining Payrolls on the Rise—August metal mining payrolls show a healthy increase of 1,000 workers over the same month last year. Most of this increment is due to increased production at Butte mines. Recruitment of experienced miners continues. A new three year contract between the Anaconda Company and the Mine, Mill and

Smelter Workers was negotiated and signed this year without work interruption. Coal mining operations at Roundup and Red Lodge will resume during September with about 50 men to be employed at the start of the season.

Fall Industries Yet To Be Staffed—Staffing of four sugar refineries in the state for opening about October 1st is one of the major labor market demands of the season. Much of this help is drawn from family workers, farm hands and others who have completed other seasonal activities. Potato harvests in scattered sections of the state will begin late September. During October and November, the annual harvest of Christmas trees will begin another season.

Job Placements Exceed 10,000—The twenty-two local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 10,327 jobseekers in a variety of industrial and farm jobs during August. Of this number, 4,216 workers were placed in industry, and 6,111 in agriculture. Industrial job placements showed a gain of 25 per cent over August 1963, while the increase in farm placements was 18 per cent. Nearly one third of the total industrial placements were in trade establishments. Next in order were service, manufacturing, construction, government, public utilities, and mining. Industrial employers throughout the state listed 4,870 job orders during the month, up 1,055 from August of last year.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	July	June	July	July	June	July	July	June	July	July	June	July	July	June	July
	1961	1964	1963	1964	1964	1963	1964	1964	1963	1964	1964	1963	1964	1964	1963
All Manufacturing	4.7	7.3	4.1	3.7	6.7	3.2	4.3	3.6	4.0	2.2	2.4	1.6	1.2	.5	1.5
Durable Goods	4.4	8.1	4.7	3.6	7.4	3.6	4.7	4.1	4.9	2.4	2.8	1.7	1.0	.3	1.3
Primary Metal	4.7	6.4	4.7	2.0	5.6	.4	5.7	2.5	6.3	1.3	1.3	.4	2.0	.6	3.7
Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.8	2.6	4.1	5.2	2.2	3.7	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.7	.8	.6
All Mining	6.5	9.2	7.2	3.9	6.5	4.0	8.2	7.1	7.5	3.5	4.3	3.5	1.9	.8	.6
Metal Mining	7.0	9.9	7.2	3.6	6.2	2.3	6.6	8.1	6.9	3.4	4.4	3.8	.1	.8	.4

* Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary August 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(280 jobseekers, 139 new, 164 men, 116 women). Overall economic conditions stay on the bright side. Smelter employment shows increase of 339, up to 1,995 from 1,654 on 12-1-63. Major construction includes remodeling of historic hotel and a new motel. Active trends still prevail in trade and service industries.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,940 jobseekers, 822 new, 1,242 men, 698 women). Major factors in August labor market included more worker demand in construction, trade and service, and agriculture. August building permits totaled \$3.2 million including 2 convalescent homes with estimated value of \$2 million. Other major work includes 14 interstate highway projects and oil refinery expansion. Opening of new cafe and a rest home made 75 new jobs.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(180 jobseekers, 192 new, 89 men, 91 women). Labor market activity holding up well in most industry groups. Increased pace of construction created shortages of some building craftsmen. Logging and sawmills at peak production with continuing shortage of experienced timber fallers. Main street business spurred by back-to-school buying.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(942 jobseekers, 329 new, 596 men, 346 women). Job hires continue to gain over last year as employment increases in metal mining, trade, and manufacturing industries. Construction payrolls hold steady but with very little new hiring. \$600,000 remodeling project for new bank location to be completed by November 1.

CUT BANK—(167 jobseekers, 35 new, 118 men, 49 women). August labor market activity centered chiefly in construction with federal housing units at Browning the main project. Trade and service volume keeps at good seasonal levels. Farm labor demand not too active due to slow ripening grain.

DILLON—(61 jobseekers, 69 new, 37 men, 24 women). Labor demand kept active especially in construction and agriculture. Work continues on post office remodeling, utility firm office and warehouse, \$350,000 rest home, and highway project. Oil drilling operation started in the Lima area with three 5 men crews employed. Nearly 200 placed in farm jobs during August.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(75 jobseekers, 35 new, 21 men,

Civilian Work Force

Total Employment

Total Non-agricultural Employment

(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)

Total Agricultural Employment

Labor Management Disputes

Total Unemployment

Percent Unemployed

U. S. Unemployment Rate

Less Than 50

54 women). Rebuilding of air base runway completed releasing 90 men for work on other projects. 1,400 military personnel on temporary duty in Washington while runway repair was in progress expected to return early September. Construction of new meat packing plant began.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—(36 jobseekers, 57 new, 55 men, 31 women). Construction remains an active force in the labor market as work continues on highway projects, super market, church, service station, and other building. Trade and service volume keeps good pace. Summer grain harvest completed mid-August.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(962 jobseekers, 545 new, 418 men, 544 women). Worker demand increased at trade and service firms as replacements for students returning to schools and colleges. High level of construction employment expected to hold next 30 days but with very little new hiring. More employment expansion occurred at smelter with 40 job placements. Extremely active farm labor demand resulted in 1,344 job placements.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(93 jobseekers, 50 new, 42 men, 51 women). Industry job hiring shows good gain over last year with construction, government, and trade at the top of the list. Logging and sawmill work at peak capacity with some labor shortages at times. Tart cherry harvest used 150 pickers.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(77 jobseekers, 46 new, 28 men, 49 women). Job placements show some decline from last month and last year due to lower volume of construction this year. Trade and service hiring mostly as replacements for students returning to school. \$280,000 start repair project should soon get underway. Good outlook for farm labor demand as hay and grain harvest progress.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Aug. 64	July 64	Aug. 63	July 64 to Aug. 64	Aug. 63 to Aug. 64
Civilian Work Force	266.6	276.3	262.9	—9.7	3.7
Total Employment	258.4	267.0	253.6	—8.6	4.8
Total Non-agricultural Employment	216.6	215.0	211.2	1.6	5.4
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	184.9	184.3	182.2	.6	2.7
Total Agricultural Employment	41.8	52.0	42.4	—10.2	—6
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	0	0	.2
Total Unemployment	8.0	9.1	9.3	—1.1	—1.3
Percent Unemployed	3.0	3.3	3.5		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	5.0	5.2		

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(318 jobseekers, 170 new, 191 men, 127 women). August labor demand exhibited gradual improvement in nearly every industry segment except agriculture. Trade activity expanded as back-to-school buying began. Clerical workers were in good demand and shortages of qualified stenographers persisted. Heavy agenda of construction required few new workers.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(486 jobseekers, 367 new, 331 men, 155 women). An active August labor market saw more employment expansion in all industries in the Kalispell-Libby area. Heavy demand for workers came from trade, construction, and manufacturing. Shortages of building craftsmen and trade industry workers developed. Highway and bridge projects in the Glacier Park area totaled \$3 million.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(104 jobseekers, 75 new, 64 men, 40 women). Labor market activity shows some improvement over July but down substantially from last year when good volume of construction was in force. August hiring centered mainly in agriculture and in trade and service units. Farm job hires 30 percent above last year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(104 jobseekers, 75 new, 55 men, 49 women). Employment continued to grow in most industry groups during August with some experienced workers in short supply. New construction includes new shopping center started 8-24. 33 men employed on local section of highway project. Increased logging operations created shortages of loggers, truck drivers, and other workers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(167 jobseekers, 109 new, 100 men, 67 women). Labor market picture lacks sparkle of year ago when good construction agenda was in

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.2	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.2	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.1	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	164.5	164.6	169.5	171.4	182.9	184.3	184.9*					

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary August 1

progress. Presently only two remodeling projects active employing 6 men. Trade and service activity at good seasonal levels.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(757 jobseekers, 467 new, 525 men, 232 women). Good employment directions in most industries during August with activity above last month and last year. Construction, manufacturing, trade and service industries all at peak capacity. Some upswing also noted in government and mining operations. Shortages of workers in logging, trade and service classifications.

POLSON—(114 jobseekers, 82 new, 86 men, 28 women). Most labor market activity during August was keyed to sweet cherry harvest and processing. Slow trends prevailed in most other industry groups. Logging and sawmill employment stayed fairly stable. Farm labor supply and demand in balance.

SHELBY—(54 jobseekers, 127 new, 30 men, 24 women). Labor market trends fairly steady except in construction where some declines noted because of completed highway and building projects. Trade and service establishments provided more jobs.

SIDNEY—(68 jobseekers, 70 new, 33 men, 35 women). Industry hiring keeps pace with past few years with exception of trade and service industry groups. Shortage of qualified carpenters expected to become more serious as several new building projects start including new bank and Culbertson school. Farm job hires show big upswing over past 2 years.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(48 jobseekers, 42 new, 32 men, 16 women). Labor market activity held fairly close to July levels. Most worker demand was in logging and sawmill operations. Shortages of waitresses and cooks existed throughout the month. Jobseeker count reduced substantially as good employment directions continued.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(72 jobseekers, 83 new, 51 men, 21 women). Upswing in oil drilling occurred during August with 3 rigs active in the Wolf Point-Plentywood area. Ten workers hired as fuel refinery reopened. Trade and service employment at good seasonal levels. Very little construction hiring but good schedule of work in progress. Farm labor demand diminished with completion of harvest.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 885 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,229 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Aug. 1964 (2)	July 1964 (3)	Aug. 1963	July '64 to Aug. '64	Aug. '63 Against Aug. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	184,900	184,390	182,200	699	2,760
Manufacturing	23,000	23,200	22,800	-200	200
Durable goods	15,000	15,200	14,900	-200	100
Lumber and timber products	9,900	10,100	9,500	-200	400
Primary metals	3,400	3,400	3,200	00	200
Other (4)	1,700	1,700	2,200	00	-500
Nondurable goods	8,000	8,000	7,900	00	100
Food and kindred products	4,400	4,400	4,400	00	00
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,600	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	700	700	700	00	00
Mining	7,600	7,600	7,000	00	600
Metal mining	5,000	5,000	4,000	00	1,000
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,600	2,000	00	-400
Contract Construction	15,400	15,200	15,900	200	-500
Contractors, building construction	4,300	4,000	4,800	300	-500
Contractors, other than building	5,800	5,900	5,900	-100	100
Contractors, special trade	5,300	5,300	5,200	00	100
Transportation and utilities	18,300	18,300	18,600	00	-300
Interstate railroads	8,000	8,000	8,300	00	-300
Transportation except railroads	4,200	4,200	4,300	00	-100
Utilities including communication	6,100	6,100	6,000	00	100
Trade	42,900	42,700	42,700	200	200
Wholesale trade	8,800	8,800	9,000	00	-200
Retail trade	34,100	33,900	33,700	200	400
General merchandise and apparel	6,400	6,300	6,200	100	200
Food stores	4,600	4,600	5,000	00	-400
Eating and drinking establishments	10,000	9,900	9,600	100	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,700	6,700	6,800	00	-100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,400	6,400	6,100	00	300
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	7,000	00	-100
Services and miscellaneous	25,800	25,700	25,200	100	600
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	5,000	5,000	4,500	00	500
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,100	00	100
Other (6)	18,600	18,500	18,600	100	00
Government	45,900	44,700	43,600	300	2,060
Federal	13,400	13,700	13,600	-300	200
State and local	31,600	31,000	29,400	600	2,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,500	23,400	23,500	100	00
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,400	00	-200
Contract construction	2,300	2,300	2,600	00	-300
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,100	6,000	5,800	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Government	4,300	4,300	4,100	00	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,400	24,200	23,700	200	700
Manufacturing	2,800	2,700	2,700	100	100
Contract construction	1,800	1,900	1,600	-100	200
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,500	2,600	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,700	7,400	00	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,400	4,300	100	200
Government	3,700	3,600	3,700	100	00

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST 1964 AND AUGUST 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Aug. 1964		Aug. 1963		Aug. 1964		Aug. 1963		Aug. 1964				Aug. 1963				Wk. 9-4	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	111	13	108	16	280	21	478	27	74	46	120	18	90	54	124	24	163	172
Billings	827	137	865	165	1,040	337	2,025	387	832	1,162	1,994	290	716	1,043	1,759	282	491	429
Bozeman	192	25	195	10	180	22	186	19	171	94	268	52	170	90	260	37	51	45
Butte	329	56	292	49	942	178	678	126	151	33	184	32	145	8	153	35	374	369
But Bank	35	6	88	28	167	35	293	81	169	65	234	82	61	110	171	56	41	40
Dillon	69	19	62	21	61	8	72	8	55	183	238	94	82	197	279	88	21	19
Glasgow	35	7	83	7	75	5	124	6	88	141	229	26	127	426	553	79	35	36
Glendive	34	7	40	5	86	3	110	11	88	223	311	15	64	256	320	26	19	22
Great Falls	345	74	606	106	962	113	1,813	347	434	1,425	1,859	241	359	996	1,355	159	420	699
Hamilton	50	5	57	5	93	7	118	23	67	263	330	16	51	338	389	27	36	44
Hayden	46	4	67	16	77	9	76	14	63	429	492	67	73	409	482	51	59	65
Helena	170	19	136	20	318	63	351	66	222	194	416	104	136	110	246	87	143	128
Kalispell	367	65	223	50	486	78	516	118	562	399	961	157	211	42	253	51	194	216
Lewistown	75	12	65	20	104	22	142	32	71	326	397	53	125	203	328	90	54	94
Livingston	75	8	73	7	104	9	101	13	100	58	158	25	116	58	174	37	50	38
Miles City	109	9	112	8	167	5	178	11	106	181	287	33	121	251	372	52	32	44
Missoula	467	87	404	58	757	158	1,042	104	344	139	483	104	322	114	436	143	197	216
Poison	82	4	55	10	114	14	152	20	331	311	642	42	40	26	66	8	63	64
Shelby	127	51	92	21	54	5	100	10	50	135	185	49	59	93	152	26	14	23
Sidney	70	7	80	11	68	3	102	4	151	164	315	28	161	101	262	49	15	26
Thomp. Falls	42	10	37	9	48	12	55	13	56	6	62	14	65		65	13	19	31
Wolf Point	83	11	100	30	72	13	56	6	28	134	162	28	64	262	326	45	45	22
TOTALS	4,036	625	3,840	692	7,155	1,105	8,768	1,446	4,216	6,111	10,327	1,570	3,358	5,167	8,525	1,465	2,476	2,842

Includes 126 claims of the Fed. UC Program 200 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug. (1) 1964	July (2) 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug. (1) 1964	July (2) 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug. (1) 1964	July (2) 1964	Aug. 1963
All Manufacturing	113.00	113.55	101.23	40.5	41.9	38.2	2.79	2.71	2.65
Durable Goods	113.02	113.42	98.30	41.4	42.8	38.1	2.73	2.65	2.58
Primary Metals	121.67	114.11	108.40	42.1	40.9	40.0	2.89	2.79	2.71
Nondurable Goods	114.26	114.11	108.19	38.6	39.9	38.5	2.96	2.86	2.81
Food and Kindred Products	100.93	101.34	88.78	39.6	41.4	38.6	2.55	2.46	2.30
All Mining	119.27	118.89	118.29	38.6	38.6	41.3	3.09	3.08	2.83
Metal Mining	115.31	115.31	117.02	37.6	37.6	39.4	3.08	3.08	2.97
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	106.93	111.50	108.36	38.9	40.4	41.2	2.75	2.76	2.63

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
United States Postage
Accounted for Under
Act of Congress

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